

Dear Joan,

Father Adrian Farrelly has conveyed to me the substance of the meeting held at Centacare on April 20, 1999.

As auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane, I write now to say how sorry I am for what you suffered at the hands of Father F D. You were taken advantage of in a most shameful way. He abused the position he had as a priest, the friendship your parents and family had with him, and the trust you placed in him as a pastor. I am sorry that you were not believed when you told other priests what had happened to you. I am deeply saddened to hear what affect this abuse had on the faith of your own mother and father and of your sons. You have been let down badly by those from whom you had every right to expect more. I am very moved by the courage you have shown in talking about a tragedy that has so profoundly affected your whole life. Be assured that I shall do all I can to ensure that no other vulnerable young person suffers as you did.

Words are a limited vehicle for acknowledging the enormity of what you have undergone and for helping the process of healing. Still I offer you this apology as some recognition of the wrong done you and harm you suffered as a result.

I do hope that the healing you have already experienced be followed by more in the years ahead.

Sincere good wishes